

Message Text

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64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P 021234 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3387

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2454

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: RLG/ LPF NEGOTIATION ON FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION
GOVERNMENT

REF: VIENTIANE 2384

BEGIN SUMMARY: LPF HAS LINKED FORMATION OF NEW COALITION
GOVERNMENT TO AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING MILITARY ISSUES.
UNLESS PRIME MINISTER CAN PERSUADE LPF TO SEPARATE POLITICAL
FROM MILITARY ISSUES, EARLY FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT
APPEARS DOUBTFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 2 DCM CALLED ON PHENG PHONGSAVAN TO FIND OUT
WHETHER PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN RLG/ LPF NEGOTIATIONS ON
FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. PHENG SAID THAT HE
HAD READ CAREFULLY 26 PAGE DOCUMENT EMBODYING DRAFT PROTOCOLS
WHICH PHOUN HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM SAM NEUA, AND HAD TWO
MEETINGS WITH PHOUN. PHENG SAID HE WAS DISCOURAGED BY PHOUN
SIPRASEUTH'S INSISTENCE THAT BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY
ISSUES MUST BE SETTLED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND COALITION GOVERN-
MENT CANNOT BE FORMED BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON OUT-
STANDING MILITARY PROBLEMS. BY LINKING THE POLITICAL ISSUES,
WHICH PHENG BELIEVES CAN BE SETTLED QUITE RAPIDLY, TO MILITARY
PROBLEMS, THE LPF ARE OBSTRUCTING SOUVANNA'S EFFORTS TO FORM
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A COALITION GOVERNMENT BY APRIL 15.

2. AFTER TALKING WITH PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING AND AFTER TWO MEETINGS WITH PHOUN. PHENG MINIMIZED DIFFERENCES IN POLITICAL FIELD. HE SAID THERE IS VIRTUAL AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF TEMPORARY JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL AND HE THNEZED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME DEFICIT IN FIRM POWER FOR 74. HOWEVER , SINCE FIRM POWER ASSUMES POSSIBLE OUTAGE LARGEST UNIT, E. G., 50 MW, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN INTERRUPTION SERVICE. PROJECTED SHORTAGES FOR CY 75 DRY SEASON SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER AND WOULD REQUIRE TWO ADDITIONAL UNITS IN ANY EVENT.

3. INDICATED BAGOES THAT OCTOBER 74 INSTALLATION FOR SECOND 40 MW HAD NOT BEEN UNDERSTANDING HERE, CORRESPONDINGLY WE HAD NOT ADDRESSED QUESTION FINANCING UNITS FOR INSTALLATION BY THAT DATE. INDICATED WE WOULD SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM USAID AND AGREED MEET WITH BAGOES WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 4 TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

4. IF WE PREPARED RESPOND FAVORABLY INSTALLATION ADDITIONAL UNITS OCTOBER 74, OBVIOUS THIS WOULD REQUIRE GOI PLACE ORDER FOR ADDITIONAL UNITS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER AWARD INITIAL TWO UNITS AND IFB DRAFTING SHOULD COMMENCE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

5. IN CONTEXT ABOVE, WOULD APPRECIATE USAID' S COMMENTS ON REQUIREMENTS ADDITIONAL TWO GAS TURBINES BE INSTALLED OCTOBER 74 AND WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY ADDITIONAL RPT ADDITIONAL FY 1973 DL FINANCING EVEN IF THIS SHOULD REQUIRE DEFERING WEST JAVA T& D TO FY 1974.

6. REQUEST ADVISE BY OPENING BUSINESS APRIL 4 FOR MEETING WITH BAGOES. RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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